

An Arithmetic sequence is a sequence where the difference between consecutive numbers terms remains constant i.e.
In the sequence: $5 ; 9 ; 13 ; 17 ; 21 ; \ldots$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { We see that } \boldsymbol{a}=\mathbf{5} \text { and } \boldsymbol{d}=\mathbf{4} \\
& \boldsymbol{T}_{\mathbf{1}}=5=\quad \boldsymbol{a} \\
& \boldsymbol{T}_{2}=9=5+4=\quad \boldsymbol{a}+\boldsymbol{d} \\
& \boldsymbol{T}_{\mathbf{3}}=13=5+2(4)=\boldsymbol{a}+\mathbf{2 d} \\
& \boldsymbol{T}_{\mathbf{4}}=17=5+3(4)=\boldsymbol{a}+\mathbf{3} \boldsymbol{d}
\end{aligned}
$$

The General Term $\boldsymbol{T}_{\boldsymbol{n}}$
Is given by
$T_{n}=a+(n-1) d$

Example 1:
Given the sequence: $2 ; 5 ; 8 ; \ldots$
a) Determine the general term of the sequence.
b) Use the general rule to determine the $40^{\text {th }}$ term.
c) Which term in the pattern will be equal to 2012 .

Solution: Constant difference: $\boldsymbol{d}=\boldsymbol{T}_{2}-\boldsymbol{T}_{1}=5-2=3$

$$
a=T_{1}=2
$$

$T_{n}=a+(n-1) d$
$=2+(n-1) 3$
$=2+3 n-3$

$$
=3 n-1 \quad \therefore T_{n}=3 n-1
$$

$T_{n}=3 n-1$
$\therefore T_{40}=3(40)-1$
$T_{40}=119$
The position of the term is 40 . Therefore, $n=40$
$T_{n}=2012$
$\therefore T_{n}=3 n-1=2012 \longleftarrow$ The value of the term is 2012. Therefore, $n=671$
$3 n=2012+1$
$3 n=2013$
$n=671$
$\therefore$ term number 671 of the sequence is equal to 2012

| Example 2: <br> Find the number of terms in the arithmetic sequence $-2 ;-6 ;-10 ; \ldots ;-150$ | Solution: $\begin{aligned} & \boldsymbol{d}=-6-(-2)=-\mathbf{4} \\ & T_{n}=a+(n-1) d \\ & T_{n}=-2+(n-1)(-4) \\ & T_{n}=-4 n+2 \\ & T_{n}=-4 n+2=-\mathbf{1 5 0} \\ & \therefore-4 n=-152 \\ & \therefore n=38 \end{aligned}$ <br> There is 38 terms <br> Constant difference: $\boldsymbol{d}=\mathbf{1 0}$ $T_{4}=39$ | Example 3: <br> Determine the first three terms of an arithmetic sequence if the constant difference is 10 and the fourth term is 30 . | Solution: <br> Constant difference: $\boldsymbol{d}=\mathbf{1 0}$ $T_{4}=39$ $\begin{aligned} T_{n} & =a+(n-1) d \\ T_{4} & =a+(4-1) d \\ 39 & =a+3 d \\ 39 & =a+3(10) \\ 9 & =a \end{aligned}$ <br> Hence the sequence is $9 ; 19 ; 29$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Example 4: <br> In an arithmetic sequence the $2^{\text {nd }}$ term is 9 and the $5^{\text {th }}$ term is 21 . Determine <br> a) The first three terms of the sequence. <br> b) The $60^{\text {th }}$ term | $\begin{array}{cl} T_{2}=a+d=9 & \text { (1) } 2^{\text {nd }} \text { term } \\ T_{5}=a+4 d=21 & \text { (2) } 5^{\text {th }} \text { term } \\ 3 d=12 & \text { (2) }-(\mathbf{1}) \\ \boldsymbol{d}=\mathbf{4} \\ \therefore T_{2}=a+d=9 \\ a+4=9 \\ \boldsymbol{a}=\mathbf{5} \end{array}$ <br> First three terms are 5; 9; 13; $T_{60}=a+59 d=5+59(4)=241$ <br> Hence the $60^{\text {th }}$ term $=241$ | Example 5: <br> $2 p-3 ; 3 p-1 ; 5 p-2$ are the first three terms of an arithmetic sequence. <br> a) Determine the value of $p$. <br> b) The first three terms of the sequence. <br> c) Determine the term equal to 2013 | Solution: $\begin{aligned} & \text { a) } \boldsymbol{d =} T_{2}-T_{1}=T_{3}-T_{2} \\ & (3 p-1)-(2 p-3)=(5 p-2)-(3 p-1) \\ & 3 p-1-2 p+3=5 p-2-3 p+1 \\ & p+2=2 p-1 \\ & \boldsymbol{p}=\mathbf{3} \end{aligned}$ <br> b) Replacing $p=3$ in the sequence we have the first three terms as $3 ; 8 ; 13$ <br> c) $\begin{aligned} T_{n}=a+(n-1) d & =2013 \\ 3+(n-1)(5) & =2013 \\ 3+5 n-5 & =2013 \\ 5 n & =2013 \\ n & =403 \end{aligned}$ |
| CAN YOU? | 1) Given the following sequence: $3 ; 8$; Determine: <br> a) The general term <br> b) $T h e 20^{\text {th }}$ term <br> c) Which term of the sequence is <br> 2) In an arithmetic sequence, $T_{3}=-2$ term and the constant difference. <br> 3) Find the number of terms in the arit $-5 ;-11 ;-17 ; \ldots ;-491$ <br> 4) The first three terms of an arithmetic $x-8 ; x ; 2 x-5$. Determine <br> a) The value of $x$. <br> b) The general term. <br> c) The value of the $115^{\text {th }}$ term. | 18; ... <br> to 223 <br> $T_{8}=23$. Determine the first <br> ic sequence <br> uence is | Solutions: <br> 1) a) $T_{n}=5 n-2$ <br> b) 98 <br> c) $n=45$ <br> 2) $\begin{aligned} d & =5 \\ a & =-12 \end{aligned}$ <br> 3) 82 <br> 4) a) 13 <br> b) $T_{n}=8 n-3$ <br> c) 917 |

## SERIES: A series is created by adding the terms of a sequence.

$2 ; 5 ; 8 ; 11 ; 14 ;$
Arithmetic Sequence
$2+5+8+11+14$
Arithmetic Series

The Sum of a sequence is labelled as $\boldsymbol{S}_{\boldsymbol{n}}$ or the Greek symbol $\Sigma$
In the series $2+5+8+11+14+\ldots$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\boldsymbol{S}_{\mathbf{1}}=T_{1}=2 & \\
\boldsymbol{S}_{\mathbf{2}}=T_{1}+T_{2}= & \boldsymbol{S}_{\mathbf{1}}+\boldsymbol{T}_{\mathbf{2}}=2+5=7 \\
\boldsymbol{S}_{\mathbf{3}}=T_{1}+T_{2}+T_{3}= & \boldsymbol{S}_{\mathbf{2}}+\boldsymbol{T}_{\mathbf{3}}=2+5+8=15 \\
\boldsymbol{S}_{\mathbf{4}}=T_{1}+T_{2}+T_{3}+T_{4}=\boldsymbol{S}_{\mathbf{3}}+\boldsymbol{T}_{\mathbf{4}}=2+5+8+11=26 \\
\cdot & \\
\dot{\boldsymbol{S}}_{\boldsymbol{n}}=\boldsymbol{S}_{\boldsymbol{n} \mathbf{- 1}}+\boldsymbol{T}_{\boldsymbol{n}} & \boldsymbol{S}_{\boldsymbol{n}}=\boldsymbol{S}_{\boldsymbol{n} \mathbf{- 1}}+\boldsymbol{T}_{\boldsymbol{n}}
\end{array}
$$

Let $\boldsymbol{T}_{\boldsymbol{n}}=\boldsymbol{a}+(\boldsymbol{n}-\mathbf{1}) \boldsymbol{d}=\boldsymbol{l}$ the last term
Then

$$
\begin{aligned}
S_{n} & =a+(a+d)+(a+2 d)+\ldots+(l-d)+l \\
S_{n} & =l+(l-d)+(l-2 d)+\ldots+(a+d)+a \\
2 S_{n} & =(a+l)+(a+l)+(a+l)+\ldots+(a+l)+(a+l) \\
2 S_{n} & =n(a+l) \\
\boldsymbol{S}_{\boldsymbol{n}} & =\frac{a}{2}(\boldsymbol{a}+\boldsymbol{l}) \\
S_{n} & =\frac{a}{2}(a+\boldsymbol{a}+(\boldsymbol{n}-\mathbf{1}) \boldsymbol{d})=\frac{n}{2}[\mathbf{a} \boldsymbol{a}+(\boldsymbol{n}-\mathbf{1}) \boldsymbol{d}]
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence the sum of the first $\boldsymbol{n}$ terms of an arithmetic series is given by the formule:

$$
S_{n}=\frac{n}{2}[2 a+(n-1) d] \quad \text { or } \quad \frac{n}{2}[a+l] ; l=\text { last term }
$$

## Example 6:

Consider the arithmetic series $(-1)+\left(\frac{-3}{2}\right)+(-2)+\cdots+(-16)$.
a) Determine the number of terms in this series.

Solution:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& T_{n}=a+(n-1) d \\
& T_{n}=-1+(n-1)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)=-16
\end{aligned}
$$

b) Calculate the sum of the series.

Solution:

$$
S_{n}=\frac{n}{2}[a+l]
$$



$$
S_{n}=\frac{n}{2}[2 a+(n-1) d]=\sum_{k=1}^{n}[a+(k-1) d]
$$

Example 9: $\quad$ Determine the value of $\sum_{n=1}^{5}(3 n+2)$
Solution:
Substitute $n=1$ in general term up to $n=5$.
$S_{n}=\sum_{\boldsymbol{n}=\mathbf{1}}^{\mathbf{1}}(\mathbf{3 n}+\mathbf{2})=(3.1+2)+(3.2+2)+(3.3+2)+(3.4+2)+(3.5+2)$

$$
=5+8+11+14+17
$$

$$
S_{5}=55
$$

Number of terms = 5 or Top - bottom+1 (5-1+1)

## Example 10: <br> Determine the value of $\sum_{\boldsymbol{k}=\mathbf{4}}^{7} \mathbf{2 k}$

Solution:
$\sum_{k=4}^{7} 2 \boldsymbol{k}=2(4)+2(5)+2(6)+2(7)$
$=8+10+12+14$
$S_{4}=44$
Number of terms $=4$ or Top - bottom +1 (7-4+1)

Example 11: Write the following series in sigma notation: $5+8+11+14+17$
Solution:

1) First calculate the general term for the series where $\boldsymbol{a}=\mathbf{5}$ and $\boldsymbol{d}=\mathbf{3}$.

Hence $T_{n}=a+(n-1) d$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& T_{n}=5+(n-1) 3 \\
& T_{n}=5+3 n-3 \\
& T_{n}=3 n+2
\end{aligned}
$$

2) Write the formula now in sigma notation

Bottom value is the first term which is equal to 5 .
$3 n+2=\mathbf{5}$
$3 n=3$
$n=1$

Top value is the last term which is equal to 17:

$$
3 n+2=17
$$

$$
3 n=15
$$

$$
n=5
$$



